

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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FIRST DAY FRNEZY

Photo gallery shows life on campus during the first day of classes.

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NEW HIRE

The Eastern Athletic Department announced a new hire for Director of Track and Field.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

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Tuesday, August 24, 2021

VOL. 106 | NO. 2

Eastern students react to 1st day of classes

By Kiara Craig

Campus Reporter | @DEN_news

The first day of school has always been a big thing for students of all ages. Some get excited by it, other are nervous, there are even those who get agitated by it. Despite all this, school is a necessary part of life that whether people like it or not, because it will teach skills that will be helpful later on.

In college, things tend to be taken a little more seriously than in high school, and the COVID-19 pandemic only complicates things.

Some people, like Ashley Jezik, a graduate student working on her masters in college student affairs, are happy that people are wearing masks, and even happier that there are places where people can get breaks from them.

"It was nice seeing people on campus with masks and then people outside didn't have to wear masks," said Jezik.

Despite the mask mandate and the pandemic raging on, most students still did their best to find a way to have fun and make friends on the first day of classes.

However, they may still have issues with the first day or worries about how the school year will go.

Sofia Ballesteros, a freshman majoring in Forensic Psychology, said her first day was a success.

"I thought it went really well, I met a lot of really cool people and the professors are really understanding and seem to be really focused on making us succeed," Ballesteros.

Ballesteros said she was still worried about not having as much of a support system as she might have been used to.

"I'm worried about my organization skills, I'm not really worried about anything else, probably just how well I'm going to be organized in this whole new environment," Ballesteros said.

Sam Wei, a freshman majoring in computer science, said that he was worried about getting his assignments in on time.

Other students have managed to jump start their college social life on the first day by going to EIU's Rec Center and socializing while



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

On the first day of classes, Leroy Sengeledo, a freshman exercise science class major, walks beside his friend, Ramon Delatorre, a freshman engineering technology major, who expresses that "classes went relatively easy today and is looking forward to seeing how the rest of the week goes."

working out.

One such student is Sandeep Gantam, a freshman majoring in technology.

Gantam said he was super excited when he learned about the Rec Center here on campus.

"I like to socialize with people," Gantam said. "I like to chill out with people and meet some new people out here, like we get some international students."

Gantam said that one of the things he likes about Eastern is that despite where you come

from, what you're majoring in, or even your sexuality, Eastern will have its doors open.

The first day can be scary for a lot of new students, but in-person classes, more open dining halls and places like the library or rec center offer opportunities to make new

Student Government: what is it and who is on it

By Luke Taylor

News Editor | @DEN_news

Each year, Eastern's student body elects members of student government to represent them in a number of issues.

These student representatives can fill a variety of roles in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, such as president, supreme court judge, or a member of one of the committees.

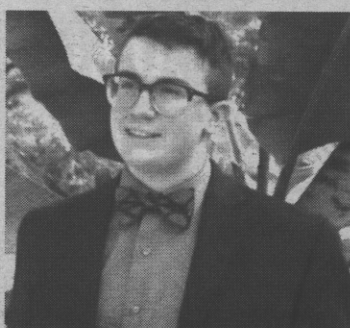
Jacqueline Williams, a senior kinesiology teaching major, is the current student body president. She ran for that position with the hopes of making an impact on the student body.

"As the student body president the primary focus of my position is to hear the students," Williams said. "I feel like I wanted to be a voice and give that excitement back to the students."

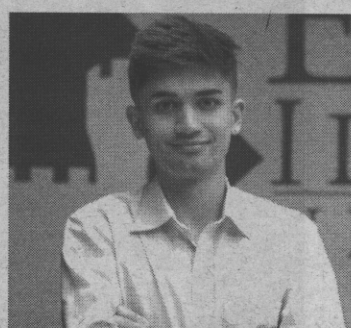
The executive branch, which includes the student body president, student body execu-



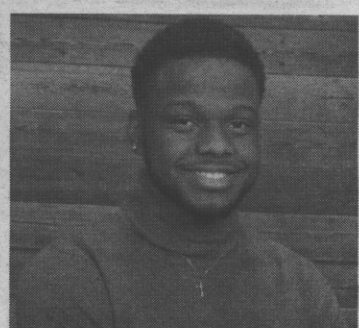
Jacqueline Williams



Payton Ade



Prabin Karki



Terrence Trimuel

tive vice president, vice president for academic affairs and vice president for student affairs, meets at least twice a month.

Those members represent Eastern's student body in certain on-campus administrative meetings as well as off-campus events like city council meetings.

Payton Ade, the sophomore political science

major who has become Eastern's youngest student body executive vice president, said he likes the political nature of his position.

"As [vice president] I am the chair of Student Action Team which is a lobbying and political centered group for students on campus with the goal of making sure that student voices are being heard to the people that make big decisions


about higher education," Ade said.

Each member also has an extensive list of individual duties which may include overseeing the organization of campus-wide events, updating information for registered student organizations, or keeping track of budgets funded by student activity fees.


STUD GOV, page 2

Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY



Mostly Sunny
High: 91°
Low: 74°



Partly Cloudy
High: 92°
Low: 73°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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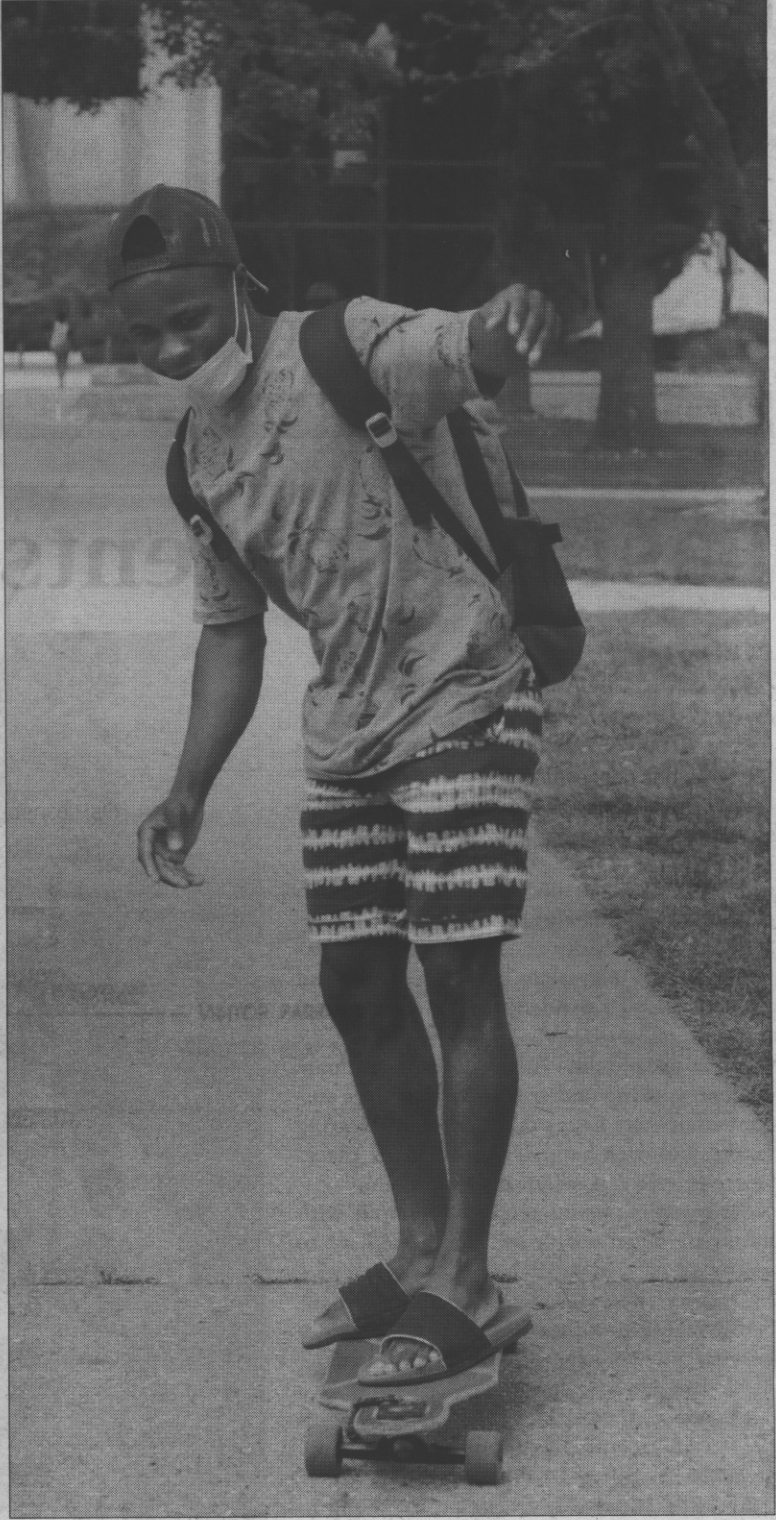
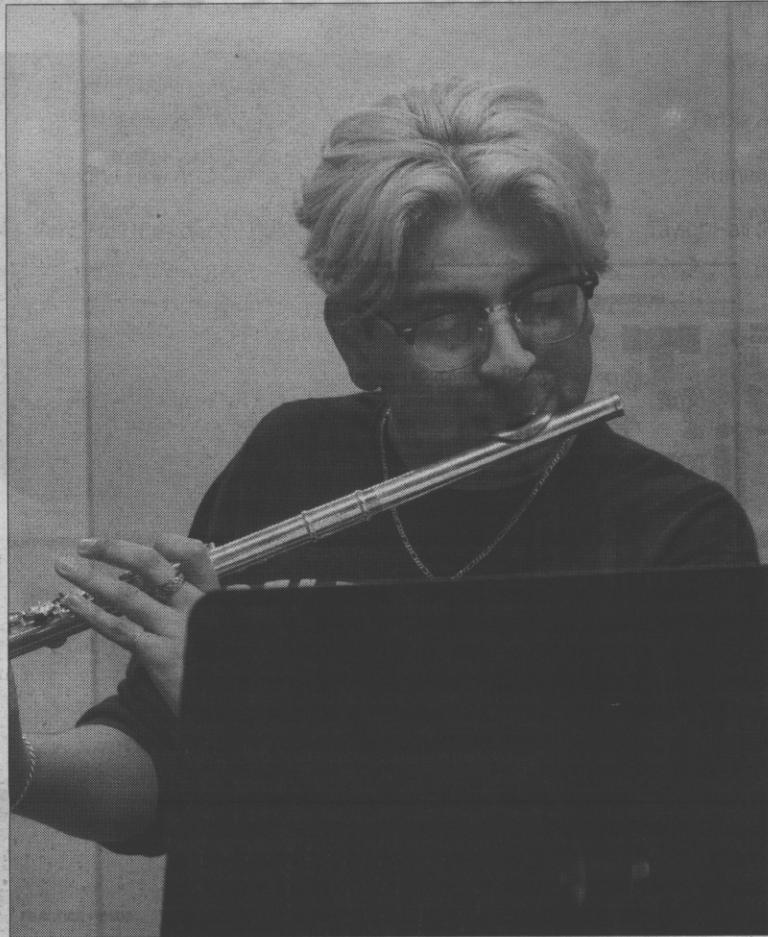
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First day of classes frenzy




ASHANTI THOMAS AND JOHN WILLS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Top) Graduate school of technology students wait outside of David Melton's class.
(Bottom) Isaac Navarro, a junior music performance major, practices the flute in the Doudna Fine Arts Center practice rooms. The halls are lined with individual closet-style rooms where students can practice.
(Right) Leroy Sengeledo, a freshman exercise science major, rides a longboard around south quad.


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About
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» STUD. GOV.


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Each member also has an extensive list of individual duties which may include overseeing the organization of campus-wide events, updating information for registered student organizations, or keeping track of budgets funded by student activity fees.
Prabin Karki, a junior mathematics major and student vice president of academic affairs, chose his major

because he enjoys problem-solving, and that's what he hopes to do as a member of the executive board.
"I am one of the students that have complains about EIU not offering the programs that I wanted to study," Karki said. "I am also not very happy with how some of my classes were taught. I wanted some academic changes and luckily Student Government had a dedicated position for that."
These executive officers are compensated for their work through scholarship money from the uni-

versity.
Terrence Trimuel, a senior accounting major, is the current student vice president of student affairs. He said he wants to use his position to promote different registered student organizations and boost campus morale.
"I wanted to step into a role where it would challenge and grow me as a person whilst connecting with my peers," Trimuel said. "I want to aid in boosting school spirit and encourage students to become more involved on campus."

The legislative branch consists of a student senate which has one seat for every 300 fully enrolled students on campus, with a minimum of 18 and maximum of 30 seats.
The senate votes on and recommends passage or failure of all fee and tuition increase proposals.
The judicial branch, which has not been active on campus in some years, is made up of a student supreme court.
Luke Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

AFSCME has our support

As we move into a new academic year with a new Editorial Board we want to make one thing very clear: our support of AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 981, has not changed.

Members of AFSCME range from clerical and technical workers to building service and food service workers but they all share one thing: they are the backbone of this university.

The keep our buildings clean and safe during this pandemic, fed the campus community and kept our university running through a time many universities are struggling.

Without them who knows how long our university would have stayed open during the pandemic?

With each passing day they continue working as hard as ever but with no fair contract to show the university appreciates the work they do.

We at *The Daily Eastern News* are quite frankly appalled that the university continues to offer unfair contracts to the people making it possible for them to work.

The university must start acting as though they care about these workers because there is simply no way this university would function without them.

We believe the best way to show these hard workers how much their work means is by properly compensating them and giving them the same rights they were given in past contracts.

We have heard the stories of employees struggling every day but sticking it out because they love this university and want to be a part of what goes on on this campus.

We have heard about how much these workers love and care about the well-being of Eastern students.

That is why we are calling on the campus and surrounding communities to show their support for AFSCME.

Let them and Eastern know you care. Don't let them fight alone.

And to Eastern, it is high time the university starts being "All In" for those who are truly all in for us.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Letters to the Editor

Those interested can inquire at opinions.DEN@gmail.com for all opinion questions, submissions and letters to the editor. Please allow a week for us to publish letters to the editor. The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board. Please include your name and phone number to verify letters. For more information please call 217-581-2812.

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Call 581-2812 for more information.

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BY PEYTON MORROW

Reintroducing a familiar face with a new name

I'm starting out this fall with a new position at the News and publishing under a new name.

If you're reading this, you've most likely read my writing before as I was a reporter in the 2019-20 school year, the associate news editor for the 2020-21 school year and editor-in-chief for summer 2021. I wrote under the name "Elizabeth Taylor," which you can still see in any of our print editions from the last two years.

This column is the most publicly I have ever stated that I am transgender and am in the process of changing my name in all documents to Luke Taylor.

I wouldn't write about this at all, except that as a journalist I pride myself in honesty and transparency, and I want readers to know that it's still my writing going into the paper.

I'm also grateful that student media at Eastern promotes diverse voices and has provided a space where I know I can announce this information and my friends, coworkers, and professors will support me.

Well, I hope I'm never accused of burying the lead, because that's probably the biggest personal news I will ever have.

I am incredibly excited for this fall at the News. We've redesigned our website, we have a brand new



Luke Taylor

masthead on the print edition, and we have big plans to involve more multimedia elements in our news coverage.

We're bringing back podcasts, everybody! Last year, we had such a small staff and the pandemic stress was so bad that I never managed to sit down and record anything, but we're going to start doing

that again.

So far, we're developing a movie commentary podcast, a weekly news podcast, and a music review podcast, and those are just the plans we put together during our pre-semester training.

I'm also excited to promote and utilize our social media even more than we have in the past. Did you know that the News has an Instagram account? Our photo editors are already making use of it to show off their work.

Last year felt pretty hopeless. Our staff was small, and mostly unable to be in person in the newsroom. We all had to do at least twice as much work as a normal year, with about half as many events to write about.

This year, we're coming back strong. So many new people have joined our staff, and even in the first two nights we've been in the newsroom, students have stopped in just to ask if they can work for us.

They can, of course. Please come work for us. This is already a year full of changes for the News, and I can't wait to see where it leads.

Luke Taylor is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.

Looking forward to a new year, opportunities

After a much deserved summer vacation, we are all back at Eastern Illinois University for another year of attending classes, making connections, joining RSOs and doing whatever else college students do.

I've been back at Eastern for a few days now, and I'm so excited to jump back into all the fun this university provides. For me, that has been working for the Daily Eastern News, getting ready for my year as LASO president and attending the Welcome Week events.

I'm especially happy to see Eastern have the same life and energy it did before COVID-19 changed the world.

Way back in 2018, I was part of the last group of freshmen to get a "normal" school year before COVID-19 hit. I got to experience all the fun things Eastern provides for about a year and half.

When I reached my sophomore year at Eastern, we were sent home for a two-week Spring Break that ended up turning into two and half months of virtual learning.

When I came back to school, I was unsure of how it would go. I was certain Eastern would only last a few weeks before shutting down, like many other universities in the country did.



Kyara Morales-Rodriguez

We managed to make it through a full school year, but it meant losing a lot of those classic college experiences that we'll remember for the years to come.

Don't get me wrong—I think everybody did the best with what they had to make the 2020-2021 school year a great one. But it just wasn't

the same.

After all that, I'm glad to have some of the normalcy I missed during my junior year, a school year in which I was too scared to even leave my room most days.

More than anything, I missed having in-person classes and events after a year of doing most of them virtually.

I missed making meaningful connections with my professors and peers in those spaces that brought us together: open mic nights, informative panels, RSO meetings, dining halls, anywhere really!

I'm being a little optimistic these days, but I'm also worried. I'm worried about the rising COVID-19 cases, the new variants that keep popping up and the amount of people that aren't getting vaccinated.

But I hope that if we continue following the COVID-19 guidelines and doing what we can to protect ourselves and one another, this can be a really great school year.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez is a senior English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu.



The Eastern men's soccer team celebrates a goal from forward Maxwell Allen (15) in the Panthers' 2-2 tie against Kansas City March 6. The match was one of two ties in conference play for the Panthers last season.

FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Recap of last season for Panthers

By Adam Tumino
Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

Exhibition season is over for the Eastern men's soccer team and the regular season is drawing near.

The Panthers are set to open the season on the road Aug. 27 against Xavier on the road with the home opener against Milwaukee to take place Aug. 30 at Lakeside Field.

The Panthers are coming off a shortened season in the spring after the fall 2020 season was pushed back.

A 1-7-2 conference record put the Panthers in last place in the Summit League, with a single non-conference loss coming against Bradley.

Several Eastern players did appear at or near the top of several Summit League leaderboards last season, most notably goalkeeper Jonathan Burke.

Back this season as a graduate student, Burke faced more shots than any other goalkeeper in the conference last season.

As a result of the high volume of shots against him, he allowed the second-most goals in the Summit League. But his save percentage of .802 was near the top, ranking third in the conference just 0.003 points behind the leader, Miles Motakef of Oral Roberts.

Burke's average of 6.90 saves per game was nearly two saves higher than the next-closest goalkeeper, and his

69 saves were to most in the Summit League by a margin of 17.

Offensively, forward Reed Axthelm was tied for seventh in the conference with his team-leading three goals. Three of Axthelm's teammates, Alejandro Lurbe, Shady Omar and Maxwell Allen, were tied behind him with two goals apiece.

With 10 goals on the season, Eastern did not have the fewest goals in the conference. That distinction belonged to Western Illinois with nine goals.

While the entire Leathernecks' team scored nine goals, Omaha's Hugo Kametani reached that mark on his own, leading the conference in goals by three.

With Kametani leading the way,

Omaha led the Summit League with 20 goals last season, but was tied for third place in the standings with 16 conference points.

Leading the way with 19 conference points was Oral Roberts.

The standings will feature a new team this season, as St. Thomas made a jump from Division III to become the 10th institution to join the Summit League.

Summit League teams begin regular season matches later this week with conference play scheduled to begin Sept. 25.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

Roberts hired as Director of Track and Field

Staff Report | @DEN_Sports

The Eastern athletic department has found a new Director of Track and Field.

Starting Sept. 3, Keith Roberts will take over the role leading the men's and women's track and field teams.

The athletic department released a statement Monday afternoon announcing the hiring of Roberts, in which Eastern Athletic Director Tom Michael spoke about the decision.

"We are excited to welcome Keith and his family to EIU," Michael said in the statement. "Keith will build a culture reflective of the successes of the student-athletes in the track program while they prepare to be successful after they graduate from EIU."

Roberts comes to Eastern from Pitt, where he served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the last six seasons. Prior to that, he was an assistant at Grand Valley State.

He also spoke via the statement.

"I am honored to be named the next Director of Track & Field and Cross Country at Eastern Illinois University," he said. "I'm excited to get started and look forward to helping the student-athletes grow athletically and academically."

Roberts replaces Brenton Emanuel, who was highly decorated during his time at Eastern.

Emanuel was named OVC Men's Outdoor Track Coach of the Year in both 2019 and 2021 and OVC Men's Indoor Track Coach of the year in 2020.

He also led the outdoor men's team to conference titles in both 2019 and 2021 and an indoor title in 2020.

The Sports Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or densportsdesk@gmail.com.

Looking back on volleyball team's spring season

By Adam Tumino
Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The Eastern volleyball team is scheduled to begin the regular season Friday and Saturday when it hosts the EIU Panther Invitational.

The Panthers are coming off a shortened, conference-only season in the Spring 2021 semester in which they went 2-14.

The two wins came just one match apart, with a 3-0 win against Tennessee State on March 8 and then a 3-1 win against Murray State on March 15, with a 3-1 loss to Murray State in between.

Last season was the first for head coach Sara Thomas, who has brought in seven new players to fill out the roster this season.

Outside hitters TaKenya Stafford, Anna Moster and Kaitlyn Flynn and middle blocker Nepheli Almpiani will be the four freshmen on this year's team.

There are three community college transfers joining the Panthers



The Eastern volleyball team celebrates after winning a match against Tennessee State on March 8, 2021 in Lantz Arena. The Panthers went 2-14 in a conference-only season in the spring.

FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

as well.

Outside hitter Annika Black

comes from Lincoln Land Community College, where she led the

team in kills, blocks and points last season.

Setter Summerlyn Smith played at Parkland College, helping lead the team to the NJCAA Division II championship game twice.

Defensive specialist/libero Lorraine Perez transferred from Iowa Western Community College as was a part of the team that won the NJCAA Division I Championship last season.

The Panthers had just one senior last season in outside hitter Laurel Bailey, whose presence last season was substantial.

Bailey was named Second Team All-OVC after ranking ninth in the OVC with 3.66 kills per set. She finished her career ranked 26th in school history with 1,041 digs.

The next two highest scorers on the team were outside hitters Kylie Michael and Danielle Allen, who will both be back for the Panthers this season.

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